

From: David D. Latham 01
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:58am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to give my opinion to the court about the proposed Microsoft settlement, under the Tunney Act. I do not believe the settlement to be a good resolution of the case. I do not think it will act as a deterrent for Microsoft to not abuse its power again. I think that if Microsoft knew this would be the punishment for its crime of abusing its monopoly position, that they would not hesitate to do it again, because they gained much more by doing so than they will lose in this settlement. I think that in order to allow competitors to compete, Microsoft should be required to open and document all of the APIs used to communicate between their programs as well as the document formats those programs use. This would allow there to be competing programs which would interoperate with Microsoft programs and provide a fair mechanism for competition. I would be disappointed with anything short of this.

Sincerely,
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U.S. Citizen
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